

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

March 11, 2014

Relates to Item #6: Establishing a County Toxic Threat Strike Team

Supervisor Molina’s motion establishes a Countywide Toxic Threat Strike Team that would allow for a more integrated and coordinated approach from County Departments to address facilities that have created significant environmental impacts on the surrounding communities. This approach is needed to better address facilities that have evaded State regulatory standards and threatened public health.

However, in many areas of the County, a legacy of poor land use planning has led to a variety of industrial uses, ranging from urban oil fields to scrap metal recyclers, that operate close to residential communities. These operations impact the surrounding communities in a variety of ways. Some facilities blatantly exceed regulatory standards. Some create legitimate public nuisances. Others foster significant fear, while generally staying in compliance with State standards. It is oftentimes challenging for residents surrounding these facilities to accurately assess the environmental and health impacts of such industrial operations, given the high level of technicality involved in the review and analysis.

~ MORE ~

MOTION

Molina \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

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The Countywide Toxic Threat Strike Team should play a proactive role by supporting community outreach and education, assessing both new, or proposed, industrial uses, and working with the community to determine whether there are public health impacts or nuisances that should be addressed.

The Countywide Toxic Threat Strike Team should also play a proactive role by concentrating resources in the areas that are identified as biggest most highly burdened. In addition to identifying the list of ten most highly burdened communities, the Department of Public Health should report back with recommendations on two pilot areas to target interventions.

Given the significant scope and timely importance of this work, a dedicated investment in the Countywide Toxic Threat Strike Team is required and should be considered as the Chief Executive Officer finalizes next year's fiscal budget.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Health to report back in 90 days with the following:
  - Recommendations on the framework for developing a mitigation plan for two highly burdened communities in Los Angeles County; and
  - Recommendations on potential protocols to establish a proactive approach and community engagement strategy when industrial uses are identified that are perceived to threaten public and environmental health.

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2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Director of the Department of Public Health to provide recommendations on a funding plan for the Countywide Toxic Threat Strike Team for consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget.

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